



MCC's Tony Calabrese, a former ER star is one of several section 5 standouts on Tribune team.



# Section 5 Standouts Keep Tribunes on Winning Path

Monroe Community College wrestling coach Roscoe Hastings learned something about his undefeated team's dedication last week.

It was inter-session at MCC. School was officially closed, but Hastings scheduled voluntary practices at 10 o'clock in the morning at MCC.

"We had guys driving in from Avon, Geneva, Warsaw and all over Section 5," Hastings said. "When guys commute that far for one-hour practices, you know they love the sport."

Such dedication has helped MCC build a 9-0 record this season. But Hastings isn't talking out loud about a perfect record.

"It's too early to think about an undefeated season," he said. "We were 8-0 and 8-1 before semester break the previous two seasons. Then some guys quit school and a bunch of others became ineligible. We wound up 8-6 and 8-5."

Hastings has reason to hope that things will be better this time around.

"We have 23 very solid wrestlers now," he said. "We might lose one or two men to ineligibility, but we have the depth to replace them this

year."

MCC has two unbeaten wrestlers — Vince Hodgdon of Warsaw (6-0) and Dave Baker of Rush-Henrietta (4-0).

The Tribunes are so loaded that Baker didn't even open the season as top heavy-weight. Kenny Primus of Franklin won their wrestle-offs in practice and took three of his four dual meets.

MCC's roster reads like a Who's Who of Section 5 mat standouts. Geneva's Jim Welsh, Eastridge's Vince Volpe and Tom Prince, East's Tom Lacagina, East Rochester's Tony Calabrese and Rush-Henrietta's Joe Wells are among the MCC

standouts.

"I met most of our men while I was officiating their matches in high school," Hastings said. "I feel extremely fortunate to be coach of a bunch of wrestlers like this year's team."

The Tribunes are a young team. Baker and John Burkin are the only starters who will graduate this year.

Burkin is a special Hastings project. John didn't wrestle at Irondequoit High, but has become a reliable performer in the 177-pound class. He has a 6-2 record this year.

MCC has already pinned losses on Cobleskill and Corning Community this winter.

Corning had been undefeated and Cobleskill has since beaten defending Region III champion Morrisville.

The next major test for the Tribunes is Feb. 3 at Morrisville. Until then, most of their best matches will be intra-squad wrestle-offs.

Last year Volpe and Lacagina met each other as top-seeded wrestlers in the Section 5 championships. Volpe took a one-point decision that time. They're on the same team now, and fighting it out every week for the right to represent MCC in regular meets.

Situations like that make MCC a loaded wrestling team.

